Package for North-Eastern States

4245. SHRI KHAGEN DAS : Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state :

(a) as per Prime Minister's Package for North-Eastern States, all Ministries of Government have been spending 10 per cent of their Budget in North-East, what is the Ministry-wise details of budgetary allocations and the expenditure in North-Eastern States during each of the last three financial years;

(b) whether unspent balances of 10 per cent allocation for North-Eastern States have been transferred by each Ministry to the Non-lapsable Pool;

(c) if so, the details thereof year-wise and Ministry-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF PLANNING (SHRI ARUN SHOURIE) : (a) to (d) All Union Ministries/Departments (except those specifically exempted) are required to spend at least 10% of their Budget(s) on schemes/projects for the benefit of the North-Eastern Region and Sikkim. In order to ensure that adequate Plan allocation is made for the North-East (and Sikkim), Ministries/Departments have been advised to indicate a separate Head in their Demands for Grants for the purpose of making lump-sum provision (10% of Budget) for the North-East and Sikkim. Shortfalls in meeting 10% norm for the North-East (and Sikkim) are to be pooled in a Central Pool of Resources.

All Central Ministries/Departments, except those who would spend 10% or more of their Budget(s) in the North-East and Sikkim or have been specifically exempted from doing so, are required to contribute to the Central Pool.

So far, an amount of Rs. 951.07 crores has been released from the Non-lapsable Central Pool of Resources for the various projects in the North East and Sikkim since its operationalisation during the financial year 1998-99.

A quick review has revealed that total expenditure on the North-East by the Central Ministries/Departments which was about 5.8% of Gross Budgetary Support for the year 1997-98 increased to about 7.5% during 1998-99 and is expected to go up further during subsequent financial years.